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2 TITLE OF INVENTION  
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4 Food Steamer  
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6 CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS  
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8 Not Applicable  
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10 STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH  
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12 Not Applicable  
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14 REFERENCE TO APPENDIX  
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16 Not Applicable  
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18 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION  
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20 A. FIELD OF THE INVENTION  
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22 This relates to preparation of food using a steamer and  
23 specifically a steamer with multiple compartments.  
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25 B. PRIOR ART  
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27 A variety of other similar patents dealing with steaming  
28 foods exist in the prior art.  
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30 They generally involve a level base, which houses  
31 the heating element(s) and a tray or bowl of water to steam or  
32 prepare the food. Ventilation holes are at the top of the  
33 steamer for ventilation.  
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35 A representative example of the prior art is the Naft  
36 patent, number 5,275,094, which includes the base, boiling  
37 liquid reservoir, heating element and cooking utensil. However,  
38 patents such as Naft are structurally and functionally different  
39 from the present invention.  
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41 Other representative patents in this particular area are  
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1 Anelli, patent number 5,865,908 and Barrow, patent number  
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3 6,259,068. None of these patents, which are representative of  
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5 the prior art, specifically solve the problem  
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7 of steaming multiple foods at the same time in one device.  
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9       This particular device seeks to address the concern where  
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11 an individual can steam and prepare multiple food products  
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13 in one unit. This would increase the efficiency and general  
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15 utility of a food steamer for household use.  
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## BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention is capable of steaming different types and amounts of foods such as vegetables in one unit using separate containers.

The device has four separate food containers. Each of the containers is identically shaped and easily interchangeable. Separate timers and separate heating elements for the containers control the process of cooking the food in the respective container.

A separate handle is provided for each container and is used for each section as well as separate ventilation valves for each particular compartment. In this device the steamer is circular and each container occupies approximately ninety degrees of the circle.

The device would allow the individual to steam one vegetable in one compartment for a designated period of time and a different vegetable for a different period of time in a separate compartment.

It is the object of this device to allow multiple types of foods to be steamed at the same time with one device. Other objects of this device, which are not specifically mentioned, will be apparent by the description of the device in this application.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Figure 1 is a front view of the device showing the elements of the device.

Figure 2 is an exploded view of the top of the device.

Figure 3 is a cross sectional view according to line 3-3 on Figure 2.

Figure 4 is a cross sectional view according to line 4-4 on Figure 1.

Figure 5 is a top view of the base of the device.

Figure 6 is a cross sectional view of the base of the device.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

This device 10 is a cooking utensil, which has a base 11, four separate steaming containers 15, and a top section 33. Figure 1 shows a front view of the device showing all visible parts of the machine and the base 11 which is slightly elevated.

The device can be elevated by using a means of elevation such as is represented in Figure 1.

The device 10 rests on a base 11, which is circular. This device 10 is approximately sixteen to eighteen inches high, and has an eighteen inch diameter. The containers 15, which are of equal size, rest on the top surface of the base 11. The containers fit on the top surface of the base 11 and under the space for the top section 33.

In the center of the device is a rod 20, which is secured in the base 11 of the device and extends vertically the entire height of the device. Figures 4,5,6 The rod 20 is threaded on one end to provide a means to secure the top section 33 to the rest of the device and maintain the proper position of the separate containers. Figure 2 depicts the means to secure the top section 33 of the device to the top of the threaded rod 20.

A recessed lip 21 on the top surface of the top section 33 of the device accommodates the upper seal 22, which is used to seal the device at the top. Figure 2

The top section 33 of the device 10 is equipped with a hole in the center of the top section 33 through which the rod 20

1 passes. Figure 2 A tightening mechanism 24 such as a nut,  
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3 wing nut or other type of locking device secures the top section  
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5 33 to the remainder of the device. Figure 2  
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7 According to Figures 1, 2 and 3, valves 25 are located on  
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9 the top section 33 of the device to allow the steam to exit the  
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11 respective containers 15. Separate valves 25 are used for each  
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13 container 15 so that the steam may escape from the respective  
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15 container. Figure 1, 2, 3  
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17 The four steaming containers 15, are positioned on the top  
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19 of the base 11 and the underside of the top section 33. The  
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21 containers 15 extend radially from the threaded rod 20 and  
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23 occupy approximately ninety degrees of the circle formed by this  
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25 device. Figures 1, 2  
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27 A separate handle 30 is included on the side of each  
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29 container 15 so that a particular steaming container 15 may be  
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31 removed without having to remove all the other containers 15.  
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33 The handles 30 are identically shaped and extend perpendicularly  
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35 from the approximate middle of each steaming container 15.  
36

37 Figure 1, 4  
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39 According to Figures 1 and 4 timers 32 are positioned to  
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41 properly time each particular section in terms of each cooking  
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43 need. These timers 32 operate independently of each other and  
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45 may be set on different times depending on a different food  
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47 need.  
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49 Figure 4 is a cross section of the device as shown from the  
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1 top, and shows the threaded rod 20 and the area occupied by each  
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3 of the steaming containers 15 and the handles 30. Figure 4  
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5 depicts each container 15 into four equal sections of this  
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7 device 10.

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9 Figures 5 and 6 show the elements involved in the base 11  
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11 of this device. In order to steam the vegetables there must be  
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13 some steamed produced. Therefore, a separate tray of water 41,  
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15 Figure 6, is included for each section and a separate heating  
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17 element 40 and timer 32 is included per section. Figures 4,5,6  
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19 On the bottom of the base 11 are heating elements 40, which  
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21 may be electric or gas. Figure 5 Separate heating element 40  
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23 are installed for each steaming container 15.  
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25 The purpose of the heating element 40 as shown in Figure 5  
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27 is to heat the water in the water reservoir 41, Figure 6, which  
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29 is located above the respective heating element 40 and placed  
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31 between the burner and the grate 42, which holds the food.  
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33 Figure 4, 6 The vegetable is placed on the grate 42 above the  
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35 water reservoir. Figure 4 The grate 42 is equipped with slats  
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37 or grooves as shown in Figure 4 to allow the steam to fill the  
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39 respective steaming container and cook the vegetables but  
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41 prevents the food from entering the water reservoir 41. Figure 6  
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43 The rod 20 is installed to run from the top to the bottom  
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45 of the device down the center of the device. According to  
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47 Figure 6 one end of the rod 20 is secured to the base 11. The  
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49 rod 20 may be included as part of a molded base 10 or inserted  
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1 through a separate hole in the center of the base 11.

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3 It is anticipated that the base 11, the steaming containers  
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5 15, and the top section 33 will be constructed from hard plastic  
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7 and will be non-ferrous to avoid corrosion. The grate 42 and  
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9 rod 20 may be made from aluminum or some other non-ferrous  
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11 metal.  
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